

WHICH WAS BORNE OF FOUR

MARK 2

Text: Mark 2:3

(Mark 2:3 KJV) "And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four."

Introduction:

We have here in our text four men, which carried a man that was sick to see the Lord Jesus Christ. They knew that if they could get this man to the Lord, that the Lord would not only meet his physical needs, but would also meet his spiritual need as well.

You see this man not only had his physical need met, this man got saved.

(Luke 5:17-26 KJV) "And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them. {18} And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him. {19} And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the

housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus. {20} And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. {21} And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone? {22} But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? {23} Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk? {24} But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house. {25} And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. {26} And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day."

Notice the order in which these needs were met. The spiritual need was met first.

(Luke 5:20 KJV) "And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee."

Once this man was saved then the Lord took care of his physical need.

(Luke 5:24-25 KJV) "But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house. {25} And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God."

Today we have just the opposite for the most part. Churches and ministries are more concerned about the physical, than they are the spiritual. God help us to keep our priorities straight.

This evening I don't want to look at this man, but rather these (4) men that got him to Jesus. The Bible said that the crowd was so big that they couldn't get in the building. At that point, most people would have quit and went home. But thank God for the persistence of these (4) men.

The Bible says that these men were determined to get this man to Jesus, so they climbed to the top of the house, removed the roof, pulled this man from the ground up to where they were, and lowered him to the presence of Jesus.

Oh I long for the day that all we desire to be is just rope holders. Not get discouraged, and disgusted, because everything didn't go as planned. Men and women that will be so determined to bring folks to Jesus that

nothing will stop them. Even if it means climbing on top of the roof, and removing the obstacles, in order to get those that are in spiritual need to the Saviour.

Let me say every church needs rope holders, every pastor needs rope holders. This city needs some faithful rope holders.

Notice with me.

1. WE NEED ROPE HOLDERS WHO ARE RESPONSIVE AND GUIDED.

(Proverbs 27:8 KJV) "As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place."

A. One who is responsive to preaching.

1. One who will beg God to speak to their heart.
2. One who will beg God to stir up their heart.
3. One who will beg God to seal and solidify their decisions

B. One who is responsive to the problem

1. In order to be responsive to the problem, one must sense the problem.
2. In order to be responsive to the problem one must see to problem.
3. In order to be responsive to the problem one must strive to solve the problem.

Illustration:

This man's biggest problem was his spiritual state.

C. One who is responsive to the program

1. One who will stand strong and true
2. One who will step up while others are stepping out
3. One who will serve those that can't help themselves

Illustration:

This man could have never got to Jesus if it had not been for these four rope holders.

2. WE NEED ROPE HOLDERS WHO ARE ROOTED AND GROUNDED.

(Ephesians 3:16-17 KJV) "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; {17} That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,"

A. One who is saved

B. One who is steady

(James 1:8 KJV) "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

1. Those who play both sides are unstable in all their ways, not some of them.

C. One who is strong

(2 Corinthians 12:9 KJV) "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

1. Don't forget where your strength comes from.

3. WE NEED ROPE HOLDERS WHO ARE RELIABLE AND GUARANTEED.

(2 Timothy 2:2 KJV) "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

- A. One that is practiced.
- B. One that is proven. (Faithful men)
- C. One that is persistent. (Doesn't get discouraged and quits)

4. WE NEED ROPE HOLDERS WHO ARE READY AND GENEROUS.

(Acts 9:6 KJV) "And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."

- A. One who is ready to help.
- B. One who is ready to hurt.
 - 1. Its not easy holding the ropes.

a. There is some pain involved.

C. One who is ready to hold on.

Illustration: Little boy holding a penny in a jar.

Close:

May God make us rope holders.